

**TITLE****PROCESS FOR BONDING OF STITCHED CARPETS****ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION**

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A thermoplastic binder applied in the vicinity of the roots of a pile surface structure, typically before stitching, is raised above its melting point but below the critical exposure temperature that can 10 adversely affect the properties of the material forming the pile elements. While at this elevated temperature the pile surface structure is mechanically flexed, as by repeatedly bending the backing with the pile loops thereon into and out of its plane. This 15 flexing action assists the molten (but not freely flowing) binder to propagate into the roots of the pile elements and into the interstices between the fibers forming the same.